

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 9, 21, 33, 36, and 46, as set forth below.

1 1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a mounting portion to couple with a first card connector on a circuit board, the mounting
3 portion including a first communication path to route at least one signal line from
4 the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector on the
5 mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for coupling
6 with a peripheral card; and
7 a routing portion to couple with a second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
8 portion including a communication path, the communication path of the routing
9 portion to route at least one signal line from the second card connector on the
10 circuit board to the mounting portion, a second communication path of the
11 mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of the second card connector
12 on the circuit board to a second card connector on the mounting portion, the
13 second card connector on the mounting portion for coupling with a peripheral
14 card;
15 wherein the first and second card connectors on the circuit board are each alternatively
16 able to receive a peripheral card.

1 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the mounting portion and the routing
2 portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at
2 least one other routing portion to couple with a third card connector on the circuit board,
3 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to route at least one
4 signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a
5 third communication path of the mounting portion to route the at least one signal line of
6 the third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector on the mounting
7 portion.

1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, the routing portion and the at least
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser for coupling with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser for coupling with the mounting
5 portion.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.

1 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a circuit board;
3 a processor disposed on the circuit board;
4 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;
5 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
6 one signal line, the first card connector on the circuit board alternatively able to
7 receive a peripheral card;
8 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at
9 least one signal line, the second card connector on the circuit board alternatively
10 able to receive a peripheral card;
11 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
12 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
13 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
14 on the mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for
15 coupling with a peripheral card; and
16 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
17 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
18 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
19 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
20 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
21 disposed on the mounting portion, the second card connector on the mounting
22 portion for coupling with a peripheral card.

1 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a peripheral card
2 secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card
3 connector on the mounting portion.

1 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, the mounting portion to orient the
2 peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, each of the at least one signal line of
2 the first card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the second
3 card connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the mounting portion and the routing
2 portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
3 one signal line; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, the routing portion and the at least
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
5 portion.

1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, the first card connector on the circuit
2 board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least one
3 intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a chassis;
3 a circuit board disposed in the chassis;
4 a processor disposed on the circuit board;
5 a chip set disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the processor;
6 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
7 one signal line, the first card connector on the circuit board alternatively able to
8 receive a peripheral card;
9 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at
10 least one signal line, the second card connector on the circuit board alternatively
11 able to receive a peripheral card;
12 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
13 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
14 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
15 on the mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for
16 coupling with a peripheral card; and
17 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
18 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
19 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
20 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
21 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
22 disposed on the mounting portion, the second card connector on the mounting
23 portion for coupling with a peripheral card.

1 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a peripheral card
2 secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the second card
3 connector on the mounting portion.

1 23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, the mounting portion to orient the
2 peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, each of the at least one signal line
2 of the first card connector on the circuit board and the at least one signal line of the
3 second card connector on the circuit board comprising at least a REQ# line and a GNT#
4 line.

1 25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the mounting portion and the
2 routing portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and coupled to the chip set by at least
3 one signal line; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, the routing portion and the at least
2 one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
5 portion.

1 29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser and the second riser
2 comprising a single part.

1 30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, the first riser oriented substantially
2 transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially parallel to the
3 circuit board.

1 31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the routing portion comprising a
2 flexible cable.

1 32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, the first card connector on the
2 circuit board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at least
3 one intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 first routing means to couple with a first card connector on a circuit board, the first
3 routing means including a first communication means for routing at least one
4 signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card
5 connector disposed on the first routing means, the first card connector on the first
6 routing means for coupling with a peripheral card; and
7 second routing means to couple with a second card connector on the circuit board, the
8 second routing means including a communication means, the communication
9 means of the second routing means for routing at least one signal line from the
10 second card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a second
11 communication means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal
12 line of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
13 disposed on the first routing means, the second card connector on the first routing
14 means for coupling with a peripheral card;
15 wherein the first and second card connectors on the circuit board are each alternatively
16 able to receive a peripheral card.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a
2 third routing means to couple with a third card connector on the circuit board, the third
3 routing means including a communication means for routing at least one signal line from
4 the third card connector on the circuit board to the first routing means, a third
5 communication means of the first routing means to route the at least one signal line of the
6 third card connector on the circuit board to a third card connector disposed on the first
7 routing means.

1 35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, each of the first and
2 second communication means of the first routing means and the communication means of
3 the second routing means to route one of an electrical signal and an optical signal.

1 36. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
2 securing a mounting structure to a first card connector on a circuit board, the first card
3 connector on the circuit board alternatively able to receive a peripheral card;
4 securing a routing structure to a second card connector on the circuit board, the second
5 card connector on the circuit board alternatively able to receive a peripheral card;
6 routing at least one signal line from the first card connector on the circuit board through a
7 first communication path of the mounting structure to a first card connector on the
8 mounting structure, the first card connector on the mounting structure for
9 coupling with a peripheral card;
10 routing at least one signal line from the second card connector on the circuit board
11 through a communication path of the routing structure to the mounting structure;
12 and
13 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board second card connector through a
14 second communication path of the mounting structure to a second card connector
15 on the mounting structure, the second card connector on the mounting structure
16 for coupling with a peripheral card.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 securing a second routing structure in a third card connector on the circuit board;
3 routing at least one signal line from the third card connector on the circuit board through
4 a communication path of the second routing structure to the mounting structure;
5 and
6 routing the at least one signal line of the circuit board third card connector through a third
7 communication path of the mounting structure to a third card connector on the
8 mounting structure.

1 38. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the first card connector on the circuit
3 board to the first card connector on the mounting structure; and
4 routing at least a REQ# line and a GNT# line from the second card connector on the
5 circuit board to the second card connector on the mounting structure.

1 39. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising securing a
2 peripheral card in one of the first card connector on the mounting structure and the
3 second card connector on the mounting structure.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein each of the first
2 and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication path of
3 the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an optical path.

1 46. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a circuit board;
3 a first card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
4 extending therefrom, the first card connector on the circuit board alternatively
5 able to receive a peripheral card;
6 a second card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
7 extending therefrom, the second card connector on the circuit board alternatively
8 able to receive a peripheral card;
9 a mounting portion secured in the first card connector on the circuit board, the mounting
10 portion including a first communication path to couple the at least one signal line
11 of the first card connector on the circuit board to a first card connector disposed
12 on the mounting portion, the first card connector on the mounting portion for
13 coupling with a peripheral card; and
14 a routing portion secured in the second card connector on the circuit board, the routing
15 portion including a communication path to couple the at least one signal line of
16 the second card connector on the circuit board to the mounting portion, a second
17 communication path of the mounting portion to couple the at least one signal line
18 of the second card connector on the circuit board to a second card connector
19 disposed on the mounting portion, the second card connector on the mounting
20 portion for coupling with a peripheral card.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising a
2 peripheral card secured in one of the first card connector on the mounting portion and the
3 second card connector on the mounting portion.

1 48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, the mounting portion to
2 orient the peripheral card substantially parallel to the circuit board.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the mounting portion
2 and the routing portion comprising a single integrated component.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:
2 a third card connector disposed on the circuit board and having at least one signal line
3 extending therefrom; and
4 at least one other routing portion secured in the third card connector on the circuit board,
5 the at least one other routing portion including a communication path to couple
6 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to the
7 mounting portion, a third communication path of the mounting portion to couple
8 the at least one signal line of the third card connector on the circuit board to a
9 third card connector disposed on the mounting portion.

1 51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, the routing portion and
2 the at least one other routing portion comprising a compound routing portion.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion
2 comprising:
3 a first riser coupled with the second card connector on the circuit board; and
4 a second riser coupled with the first riser, the second riser coupled with the mounting
5 portion.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser and the
2 second riser comprising a single part.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, the first riser oriented
2 substantially transverse to the circuit board and the second riser oriented substantially
3 parallel to the circuit board.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the routing portion
2 comprising a flexible cable.

1 56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, the first card connector
2 on the circuit board separated from the second card connector on the circuit board by at
3 least one intervening card connector disposed on the circuit board.

1 57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an electrically conductive path.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each of the
2 first and second communication paths of the mounting portion and the communication
3 path of the routing portion comprises an optical path.